

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03
SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 L-03
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SS-15 ACDA-07 AGRE-00 OES-06
DOTE-00 STR-04 CEA-01 DHA-02 ORM-02 /116 W
-----041624Z 023876 /45

P R 041230Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9567

INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

MBABANE FOR OSARAC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, BC, UNSC

SUBJECT: FARAH MISSION: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO BOTSWANA

REF: GABORONE 0509 (NOTAL)

1. UNASYG FARAH OPENED BRIEFING DESCRIBED REFTEL BY REVIEWING
TERMS OF UNSC DECISION RE BOTSWANA, I.E., TO HELP BOTSWANA IN
ITS PRESENT SITATUION IN WHICH IT IS "OBLIGED TO DIVERT DEVELOPMENT
RESOURCES FOR SECURITY PURPOSES". FARAH SAID THAT EXTAFF MIN
MOGWE HAD SAID THAT PMU EXPANSION WOULD COST MORE THAN \$25
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MILLION; UN MISSION WAS TO HELP SYG DETERMINE HOW MUCH OF GOB
DEVELOPMENT BUDGET WAS BEING DIVERTED TO THOSE PURPOSES.

2. AFTER DESCRIBING REFUGEE NEEDS (REFTEL) FARAH TURNED TO
ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, STRESSING THAT GOB HAD GIVEN ALL POSSIBLE
COOPERATION AND HAD "NOT TRIED TO MAKE A CASE FOR LARGE AMOUNTS
OF MONEY". MISSION HAD VISITED FRANCISTOWN AND RHODESIAN

BORDER; THEY HAD BEEN SHOWN BUILDINGS AND AREAS WHERE INCIDENTS OCCURRED. IT WAS CLEAR, FARAH COMMENTED, THAT INCIDENTS WILL RECUR UNLESS STEPS ARE TAKEN. TWO "SECURITY-RELATED" PROJECTS WERE CLEARLY NEEDED. FIRST WAS A LIVESTOCK CONTROL FENCE ALONG PARTS OF THE RHODESIAN-BOTSWANA BORDER AND DIGGING OF WELLS FOR WATERING POINTS ON THIS SIDE OF THE BORDER. TWO PURPOSES WOULD BE SERVED, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL: FIRST, SUCH A FENCE WOULD KEEP DISEASED CATTLE OUT OF BOTSWANA. HE NOTED CONTROL OF LIVESTOCK HAD OFTEN BEEN INEFFECTIVE IN THE PAST. FEAR OF HOOF AND MOUTH DISEASE COMING FROM RHODESIA WAS NOW A SERIOUS CONCERN, GIVEN THE IMPORTANCE OF BOTSWANA BEEF EXPORTS TO EEC. (HE EXPLAINED THAT EEC HYGIENCE REGULATIONS REQUIRE A "BUFFER ZONE" AGAINST AREAS WHERE HOOF AND MOUTH DISEASE EXIST IF BEEF EXPORTS TO EEC ARE TO CONTINUE). FARAH MISSION WOULD THEREFORE RECOMMEND TWO FENCES BE BUILT, ON RIGHT ON THE BORDER AND ONE BACK A FEW MILES LEAVING A BUFFER ZONE IN THE EVEN HOOF AND MOUTH DISEASE IS IDENTIFIED IN RHODESIA. SECOND PURPOSE WAS THAT THE BORDER FENCE WOULD HELP MINIMIZE INCIDENTS RESULTING FROM BOTSWANA FARMERS TAKING THEIR CATTLE TO THE RIVER AND INADVERTENTLY CROSSING (FARMER AND CATTLE) INTO RHODESIA WITH CONSEQUENT DANGERS, DISPUTES AND TENSIONS. IN ADDITION, ACCESS ROADS WOULD HAVE TO BE BUILT ALONG THE BORDER.

3. SECOND SECURITY-RELATED PROJECT DESCRIBED BY FARAH WAS THE NEED TO DEVELOP STORAGE FACILITIES AND ACQUIRE STRATEGIC GRAIN RESERVES. THIS PROGRAM STEMMED DIRECTLY FROM CONCERN ABOUT THE ECONOMIC VULNERABILITY OF BOTSWANA IN THE EVENT OF DISCONTINUATION OF RHODESIAN RAILROAD SERVICE. FARAH NOTED INCREASING CALL-UP OF RHODESIANS FOR MILITARY SERVICE AND ESSENTIAL ROLE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF RHODESIAN TECHNICIANS, MECHANICS AND ENGINEERS IN KEEPING THE RAILROAD IN OPERATION. GOB WAS CONCERNED ABOUT BEING CAUGHT WITH INSUFFICIENT FOOD SUPPLIES AND LACK OF TRANSPORTATION. IN ADDITION, FARAH SAID PROBLEM HAD BEEN COMPOUNDED THIS YEAR BY LATE RAINS -- AND THEREFORE LATE PLANTING. GOB ESTIMATED GRAIN HARVEST WOULD BE 30 PERCENT OF NORMAL IN THE NORTH, 50 PERCENT OF NORMAL IN THE SOUTH, WITH AN AVERAGE COUNTRYWIDE OF 40 PERCENT OF NORMAL.

4. THESE TWO FACTORS, I.E., UNCERTAINTY OF RAILROAD TRANSPORT AND REDUCED HARVEST MEANT THAT GRAIN STORAGE FACILITIES AND STOCKS WERE NEEDED, PARTICULARLY CORN (MAIZE) AND SORGHUM. BOTSWANA MARKETING CORPORATION PRESENTLY HAS LESS THAN ONE MONTH'S SUPPLY OF GRAIN IN RESERVE. GOB AIM IS TO BUILD STORAGE FACILITIES AND ACQUIRE A RESERVE OF CORN AND SORGHUM TO BE DELIVERED IN FIVE TO SIX MONTHS WHEN THE SHORTFALL OF THIS YEAR'S HARVEST IS EXPECTED TO BE FELT.

5. COMMENTING ON THE ATMOSPHERE ALONG THE RHODESIAN BORDER,

FARAH NOTED THAT SOME VILLAGERS HAVE MOVED BUT AMONG THEOSE STILL THERE ONE SENSES "DEEP-SEATED FEAR OF WHAT MAY HAPPEN". THE CREATION OF "NO GO" AREA AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A CURFEW HAVE HELPED SOMWHAT. POLICE PATROLS, WHICH GOB IS PLANNING TO INSTITUTE, WOULD HELP MORALE OF VILLAGERS WHO CONTINUE TO FEAR "ABDUCTION, REPRISALS AND REVENGE KILLINGS" WHICH STRENGTHENED POLICE PROTECTION COULD APPEASE.

6. FARAH TOUCHED BRIEFLY ON ECONOMIC ASPECTS OF GAB PRESENTATION WHICH HE SAID FELL UNDER THREE HEADINGS: FIRST, ADDITIONAL PROJECTS, I.E., THOSE THAT WRE NOT FORESEEN AND THEREFORE NOT MENTIONED IN GOB FIVE-YEAR PLAN BUT STILL REQUIRED BECAUSE OF RHODESIAN BORDER PROBLEMS. THESE INCLUDED CONTROL FENCE, WATERING POINTS AND ROADS; SECOND, ACCELERATED PROJECTS, I.E., THOSE INCLUDED IN GOB FIVE-YEAR PLAN BUT WHICH AHAVE TO BE CARRIED OUT EARLIER THAN EXPECTED BECAUSE OF RHODESIAN PROBLEM. THESE INCLUDED GRAIN STORAGE PROJECT: AND THIRD, PROJECTS WHICH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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GOB HAD BUDGETED FOR IN THE FIVE-YEAR PLAN BUT WHICH WERE BEING ALTERED SLIGHTLY TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT THE RHODESIAN SITUATION (NO EXAMPLES WERE GIVEN).

7 FARAH SAID THE THREE CATEGORIES OF AID WERE INTERRELATED AND WOULD BE PACKAGED IN A REPORT FOR PRESENTATION TO UNSYG NOT LATER THAN MARCH 20. AS FOR TORAL COST, FARAH SAID HE INTENDED TO AVOID PRESS STATEMENTS ON SUBSTANCE OF HIS RECOMMENDATIONS; UNSYG HAD TO BE INFORMED FIRST. HE WOULD SAY ONLY THAT, TO MEET GOB NEEDS OUTLINED TO THE UN MISSION, GOB WOULD HAVE TO DIVERT "MORE THAN ONE--HALF OF GOB'S PROJECTED DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES". (ACCORDING TO INFORMATION FROM LATES FIVE-YEAR PLAN, EMBASSY ESTIMATES THIS WOULD BE MORE THAN \$40 MILLION.) FARAH SAID GOB HAD EXPECTED TO FINANCE ABOUT ONE-FOURTH OF ITS DEVELOPMENT PLANS, A GOAL IT WOULD HAVE TO ABANDON.

8. FARAH CONCLUDED WITH EXPRESSION OF HOPE THAT INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY, INCLUDING GOVERNMENTS REPRESENTED AT THE BRIEFING, WOULD RESPOND GENEROUSLY TO BOTSWANA'S NEEDS FOR DEVELOPMENT TO COMPENSATE FOR DIVERSION OF DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES TO SECURITY PURPOSES. COMMENT BY SEPTTEL.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 04-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977GABOR000546
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770075-0580
Format: TEL
From: GABORONE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770393/aaaadeid.tel
Line Count: 161
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
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Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 GABORONE 509
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3210732
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FARAH MISSION: ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO BOTSWANA
TAGS: EAID, BC, UNSC, (FARAH)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/bec7adbd-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009